

MEMORIAL  
OF THE  
LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI,

PRAYING

*A change in the system of transporting the mail.*

MARCH 22, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and ordered to be printed.

MEMORIAL of the legislature of the State of Mississippi to the Congress of the United States, praying a change in the system of transporting the mail.

The memorial of the legislature of the State of Mississippi to Congress would respectfully represent, that the mail arrangements in this State are in such condition of disorder and confusion as in a great degree to deprive the people of the benefits and advantages of the mail system. The chief value of this great channel of intercommunication between the people of the Union, consists in its regularity. As the mail service is now performed, there is no pretence of regularity, but, on the contrary, the failures so numerous as to have almost destroyed public confidence in the mails. This your memorialists attribute to the unwise change of the law of Congress by the act of 1845, by which the Postmaster General was required to let contracts to the lowest bidder, requiring the contractor only to transport the mail, leaving it to himself to choose the mode and manner of its transportation. This change has thrown some of the most important routes in the State into the hands of irresponsible and incompetent men, whose means of carrying the mail are utterly inadequate to the service. Your memorialists therefore pray your honorable body to retrace your steps with regard to the mode of transporting the mail, and of letting contracts, so that a discriminating power may be given the Postmaster General in the choice of competent and responsible contractors, and authorizing that officer to prescribe the mode of transportation, having in view the public convenience and accommodation, and the bulk of the mails, in such discrimination.

*Resolved,* That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to carry out the objects of the foregoing memorial.

JOHN J. McRAE,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
DABNEY LIPSCOMB,  
*President of the Senate.*

Approved March 4, 1848,

J. W. MATTHEWS.

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

I, Samuel Stamps, secretary of state of the State of Mississippi, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing writing contains a true, correct, and an exact copy of a memorial of the legislature of the State of Mississippi, entitled "Memorial of the legislature of the State of Mississippi to the Congress of the United States, praying a change in the system of transporting the mail," approved March 4th, 1848, of which it purports to be a transcript.

In testimony whereof; I do hereunto subscribe my name and affix the great seal of the State of Mississippi, the tenth day of March, 1848.

SAMUEL STAMPS,

*Secretary of State.*

The memorial of the legislature of the State of Mississippi to Congress would respectfully represent that the mail arrangements in this State are in such condition of disorder and confusion as to a great degree to deprive the people of the benefits and advantages of the mail system. The chief value of this great channel of communication between the people of the Union consists in its regularity. As the mail service is now performed, there is no pretence of regularity, but on the contrary, the delivery of the mail is so irregular and uncertain as to have almost destroyed public confidence in the service. The year 1845, by which the Postmaster General was required to be content in the lowest bidder, regarding the contractor only to transport the mail, leaving it to himself to choose the mode and manner of its transportation. The change has thrown some of the most important routes in the State into the hands of irresponsible and incompetent men, whose means of carrying the mail are utterly inadequate to the service. Your memorialists therefore pray your honorable body to revoke your laws with regard to the mode of transporting the mail, and to confer upon the President of the United States the power to be given to the Postmaster General in the exercise of his official and responsible duties, and authorizing that office to prescribe the mode of transportation, and in view the public convenience and accommodation, and the public interest in such distribution.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to carry out the object of this foregoing memorial.

JOHN J. McLANE

DANIEL LINSICOAN

I. W. MATTHEWS

Approved March 4 1848